(1) Passports are, at present, ordinarily being issued after prior identity and security verifications from the State Police Authorities concerned who have been requested to exercise care and caution in furnishing of the reports.

(2) As regards tampering with the photos and entries in the passports, Passport Offices have been instructed to be careful and glue photo properly and put signature and round seals across the photo before sticker is affixed in the passport.

(3) The security features in passport booklet are being further improved and with the proposed introduction of machine readable passports by 1990, forgery in the passport booklet is likely to be fully eliminated.

(4) With the phased computerisation of various passport offices in India and with a creation of national hook-up in the near future, issue of passport will become further secure.

Undertrials in jails

2196. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of undertrials lodged in various jails in the country at the end of 1986;

(b) which of the State jails have the highest number of undertrials and how many of them are confined to jails for periods more than the sentence had they been convicted by the Court;

(c) whether it is a fact that the State Governments concerned have completely ignored the Central directive to review the cases of undertrials and have also not followed the directive of the Supreme Court to release all those who have served more than the sentence period they would have otherwise awarded by the courts if convicted; and

(d) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) As per information available the total number of undertrials as on 30-6-86 was 1,01,609.

(b) These statistics are not collected by the Centre.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The State Governments have been requested to adhere to the instructions and the directives of the Supreme Court.

Murder of foreign diplomats

2197.SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of foreign diplomats murdered in India during 1985-86; and

(b) how many of these murder cases have been solved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI):

(a) According to the available information, no murder of any foreign diplomat took place during the year 1985-86 (Ist April, 1985 to 31st March, 1986).

(b) Does not arise.

Repatriation of tribal refugees to Bangladesh

2198. SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of tribal refugees from Chittagong Hills of